

Data Collection Methods: Getting Down to Basics

Intended Audience

State- and community-level prevention practitioners

Objectives

Participants in the course will have the opportunity to explore:

- How data can help you improve your prevention activities and mobilize support for your program.
- How to mine existing data sources—both local and national—to better understand your community's drug and alcohol problem
- How to collect new data (e.g., define a target group, write and/or locate useful questions, implement a data collection effort that yields quality information)
- How to choose among the following data collection methods: surveys, focus groups, and key informant interviews.

Description

Data Collection Methods: Getting Down to Basics is designed to help practitioners identify and collect the data that will enable them to design, implement, and evaluate effective prevention activities. It combines readings, online activities, and moderated discussion. Course materials include planning tools, an annotated bibliography of evaluation guides and courses, and links to related Web sites. **This is the second of three online courses that address issues related to evaluation.**

This is an asynchronous event, which means that participants can take the course at their own pace and log in at their convenience. However, to benefit most from the materials and online discussion, we encourage participants to adhere to a recommended schedule.

Course Length 2 weeks (6 daily sessions, 3 per week)

Course Requirements

Participants are expected to:

- Visit the course Web site 3 times per week
- Complete all online activities
- Participate regularly in online discussion (e.g., post 1-2 comments to the Discussion Board per activity)
- Complete an online evaluation

Technical Requirements

- Computer with Internet access and at least 128 megabytes of RAM (memory)
- Computer capable of using Microsoft Internet Explorer, version 5.0 or higher
- Web-based e-mail account

Contact Information

CSAP's Northeast CAPT Manager of Distance Learning Melanie Adler, e-mail:

madler@edc.org; phone: 617-969-7100 x2309